

### REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered in view of the above amendments and the following remarks and that all of the claims remaining be allowed.

#### Claims Amendments:

Claims 1-17 and 20-24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants specifically reserve the right to file at least one continuing application to prosecute the canceled subject matter.

Claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form. Support for the amendments to claim 18 can be found, for example, in the original claim 17.

Claim 19 has also been rewritten in independent form. In addition, claim 19 has also been amended to correct typographical errors.

New claims 25-33 have been added, for which support can be found, for example, as follows:

| Claim Number | Exemplary Support    |
|--------------|----------------------|
| 25-30        | original claims 9-14 |
| 31           | claim 18             |
| 32-37        | original claims 9-14 |

No new matter has been added by these amendments. The Examiner is hereby requested to enter these amendments.

Applicants submit that all claim amendments presented herein or previously are made solely in the interest of expediting allowance of the claims and should not be

interpreted as acquiescence to any rejections or ground of unpatentability. Applicants reserve the right to file at least one continuing application to pursue any subject matter that is canceled or removed from prosecution due to the amendments.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, 102 and 103:

The rejections of claims 1-16 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; claims 1, 5-9, 15-19, 11-13 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102; as well as claims 1-13 and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103 are now moot since claims 1-17 have been canceled. Therefore, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action states that claims 18-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (page 7, paragraph 11 of the Office Action). Accordingly, claims 18-19 have been amended as suggested. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 18-19 are allowable.

Applicants further submit that claims 25-37 are also allowable. These new claims all depend from claim 18 or 19, further reciting additional elements that are well described in the present application. Therefore, allowance of claims 25-37, in addition to claims 18-19, is respectfully requested.

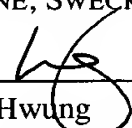
Conclusions:

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that the claims of this application are patentable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections are hereby requested. Allowance of the claims remaining in this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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